Fast erosion of sea beach in Orissa

1229. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether Government is aware that there is a fast erosion of sea beach along the Puri/ Gopalpur coast in Orissa and it needs immediate preventive measures by the Centre;

whether the Central Government has formulated certain action plan to address this problem; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Flood Management and erosion control being a State subject, the schemes for flood and erosion control are planned, funded and executed by State Governments themselves as per their own priorities. The assistance rendered by Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

Government of Orissa have prepared two schemes, namely (i) Coastal Protection of Puri Sea Beach from Sterling Hotel site to Hotel Cocopalm (total length 980 metres) at an estimated cost or Rs. 6.96 crore and (ii) Protection of Mangala River Mouth at Puri Sea Beach near Sterling Hotel at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.99 crore. These schemes have been technically examined in Central Water Commission and comments sent to State Government or Orissa for compliance.

Hydropower projects in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

1230. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether the World Bank which is financing the Rampur Hydropower Project in Himachal Pradesh and the Vishnugad Pipalkoti Project in Uttarakhand has in its study report called for a river basin-wise approach;

if so, whether the study commissioned by the States in January 2007, has recommended a basin-wise approach in Sutlej and Alaknanda river basins which will optimize energy production and minimize environment and social impact;

if so, whether Government has considered these suggestions; and

if so, what time final decision in this regard is likely tobe taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The report in respect of "River Basin Development Optimization Study" conducted by the World Bank under Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) grant *inter-alia* includes discussion on "River Basin Planning - An Opportunity for India". The report states that a new generaton of river basin planning is emerging with a holistic approach that seeks to integrate potential environmental and social costs into the planning and implementation process. It further states that "this rich world-wide experience provides India with anopportunity to incorporate into current practice in the hydropower sector a holistic approach to river basin development

that will help serve the country's national development goals while promoting sustainable, equitable development on the local and regional levels".

(c) and (d) The need for basin wise planning for development and management of water resources is duly emphasized in the National Water Policy (NWP) which states that "water resources development and management will have to be planned for a hydrological unit such as drainage basin as a whole or for a sub-basin, multi-sectorally, taking into account surface and ground water for sustainable use incorporating quantity and quality aspects as well as environmental considerations. The NWP further states that "all individual developmental projects and proposals should be formulated and considered within the framework of such an overall plan keeping in view the existing agreements/awards for a basin or a sub-basin so that the best possible combination of options can selected and sustained."

Effect of change of climate on water

1231. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether Government has called for immediate action to make a realistic assessment of climate change on water resources;

if so, the details thereof;

whether his Ministry has taken any steps to evaluate the consequence of climate change in river flow or groundwater characteristic and also to identify adaptation strategies; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has constituted a Coordination Committee chaired by the Prime Minister called Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

(c) and (d) Realising the need for proper assessment of the effect of climate change on water resources and flow characteristics, research on specific issues including impact assessment of climate change on water resources has been undertaken by Ministry of Water Resources through Central Water Commission, Brahmaputra Board and National Institute of Hydrology with active participation of reputed academic institutes.

Floods in North Bihar

t 1232. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action is being taken by Government in the direction of water management to stop the floods in North Bihar coming from the rivers of Nepal;

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.